



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
New Orleans District

# News Release

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## **For Immediate Release**

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## **District Commander signs Individual Environmental Report 23**

*Document authorizes contractors to use suitable clay from specific sites for hurricane system construction projects*

**NEW ORLEANS** - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District Commander, Col. Alvin Lee, has signed the Decision Record for Individual Environmental Report (IER) 23, titled "Pre-Approved Contractor Furnished Borrow Material, St. Bernard, St. Charles, Plaquemines Parishes, LA, and Hancock County, MS." This approval allows for contractors to use all or portions of the clay material from five borrow sites in the Greater New Orleans Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System.

"The sites were cleared for use once our team determined they held clay material that would meet our strict suitability standards, are not located in wetlands, are not home to any endangered or threatened species, nor on the site of any culturally significant resource," said Gib Owen, chief of the Corps' Ecological Planning and Restoration Section.

The sites investigated in IER 23 and cleared for use in the system are:

- 1025 Florissant St., located in St. Bernard Parish
- Acosta, located in St. Bernard Parish
- 3C Riverside, located in St. Charles Parish
- Myrtle Grove, located in Plaquemines Parish
- Pearlington Dirt Phase 2, located in Hancock County, MS

The Corps will continue to test the quality of the soil throughout the excavation and construction process to insure each portion of the site holds material suitable for use in the hurricane system.

A contractor furnished borrow site is defined as a site that appears to have suitable material, based on evidence given by a landowner to the Government. The Corps does not have a contractual arrangement with the landowner, nor does the Corps vouch for the availability or quantity of material the landowner

has available. The Corps' role is limited to the possible inspection by the Corps of the sites that have been tested by the private landowners and a review of the results of the geotechnical and environmental assessment (undertaken at the landowner's expense). Now that the proposed borrow areas are approved, the landowner may sell the suitable clay material to contractors working on Corps projects to complete construction of the hurricane system.

The draft of IER 23 was released for public review on Mar. 24, 2008. The comment period closed on Apr. 23, 2008. Comments on IER 23 were received from governmental agencies and a citizen.

The Corps needs more than 100 million cubic yards of suitable borrow material to complete 350 miles of earthen levees and floodwalls throughout five parishes in the New Orleans metropolitan area.

Alternative arrangements allow the Corps to expedite the environmental process required of all federally funded projects while fully complying with the intent of the National Environmental Policy Act. The Corps encourages the public to provide written comments on IERs by mail, e-mail or by visiting [www.nolaenvironmental.gov](http://www.nolaenvironmental.gov) at any time throughout the comment period.

Questions or comments concerning proposed actions should be addressed to:

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For more information or to sign up to be on a meeting notification list please visit the following web site: [www.nolaenvironmental.gov](http://www.nolaenvironmental.gov).

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